

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-9 are now in this application, and are presented for the Examiner's consideration.

The claims have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis, and clarify the language.

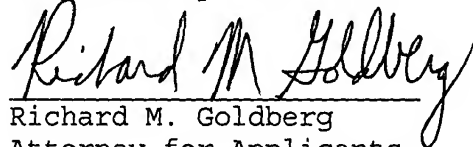
The specification has been amended to correct various errors.

The drawings have also been amended since numeral 12 was used to identify the heating furnace 12 as well as the shaft 12. The shaft has been renumbered as numeral 24, as indicated in red on the attached sheets of Figs. 4A, 4B, 6A and 6B herewith. In addition, replacement sheets of Figs. 4A, 4B, 6A and 6B are enclosed with these changes, which constitute formal drawings. It is requested that the Examiner approve these drawing changes.

Please charge any additional fees incurred by this Preliminary Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-1524.

It is hoped that this Preliminary Amendment will facilitate an examination of the application on its merits.

Respectfully submitted,



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